



29 November 2015

Montgomery County Public Schools  
Carver Educational Services Center  
850 Hungerford Drive, Room 149  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Sirs/Madams:

I am a public health physician who served as the Co-Editor of the Bioinitiative Report first published in 2007 and later in 2012 as a comprehensive review of the adverse health effects of radiofrequency electromagnetic fields. I also provided testimony on radiofrequency radiation and cancer risk to the Presidents Cancer Panel in 2009. I am also a former resident of Montgomery County and my two older children attended elementary school there.

There is strong and consistent evidence that excessive exposure to radiofrequency electromagnetic fields has adverse human health effects. Of particular concern is the clear evidence that children are more vulnerable than adults. The best documented adverse effects are an increase in risk of cancer after years of exposure as evidenced by the results of the Interphone, Hardell and French CERENAT studies. These research studies found increased cancer risk in the "heavy" users of cell phones after ten years of use. However, "heaviest use" corresponded to the equivalent of *just* thirty minutes a day in these research studies. Please note that cancers do not appear immediately upon exposure but rather come years later.

Within a school setting there is increasing evidence that excessive exposures reduce learning ability, which is the last thing one wants in a school. Some children will also develop a syndrome of electrohypersensitivity, where they get headaches and reduced ability to pay attention and learn. While these effects are not nearly as well documented as those relating to cancer, they are particularly important within a school. This is especially the case in a wireless computer classroom, where exposure can be very high. However there will be essentially no exposure in a wired computer classroom.

The exposure levels of the Federal Communications Commission are totally outdated and do not protect the health of the public, especially of children. I urge you to abandon any plans for wireless communication within schools. It is of course critical that all children have access to the internet, but when this is done through wired connections they will not be exposed to excessive electromagnetic fields.

Yours sincerely,

David O. Carpenter, M.D.  
Director, Institute for Health and the Environment

University at Albany